(a) whether Government's policy is to encourage internet services for the promotion of information technology;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to accord sanction to the application sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for connecting Bhopal and Indore cities with an International gateway hub; and

(c) if so, by when the sanction would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) International connectivity have been provided through Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), International Gateway at Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai and Pune. Bhopal is connected to Mumbai while Indore is connected to Mumbai and Pune. No separate International Gateway has been planned in Madhya Pradesh.

Work at DEAL

†*266. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no work for most of the Scientists and Technicians working in Defence Electronics Applications Limited (DEAL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.